

**Letter from the Editors**

*Dear Emerging Leaders!*

*Welcome to the fourth edition of the ELPPost and the first edition with us as your new co-editors! In this edition, Aleisha Langhorne ('07) pays tribute to our former ELP Program Manager, Stephanie Lott, who passed away suddenly and tragically late this summer. A member of the Class of '08, Alison Keller, reports on the HHS, NIH, and CDC ELP orientations, while one of the ELPPost's previous co-editors, Stef Salazar Levesque, recaps the Class of '06 graduation. Jessica Camacho-Rodriguez ('08) shares her experiences so far at the CDC in the ELPPost's new column "Highlighting the Work of ELs." We also feature another previous ELPPost co-editor, Jen Greaser ('05), in the "Alumni Spotlight" column. Additionally, we welcome the new Program Manager, Heath McCoy. Lastly, the co-editors use their legislative office expertise to describe the current status of the HHS appropriations bill.*

*We have tried very hard to incorporate submissions and topics from members of both classes and alumni, and will continue to do so in the upcoming year. Please feel free to share your thoughts on the ELPPost with either of us, and please contact us if you are interested in contributing ideas or articles to future editions.*

*Enjoy!*

*Rachel and Justin*

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**Tribute to Stephanie Lott**

*~ Aleisha Langhorne, CDC '07 ~*

Stephanie V. Lott was welcomed as the new HHS Program Manager on January 1, 2006. The ELPPost is sad to report that Stephanie passed away suddenly on August 25, 2006. I was privileged to join Stephanie for lunch on August 24th; she spoke very highly of our program and about how much she enjoyed the never-ending work associated with the program. Stephanie was planning our upcoming ELP training and looking forward to seeing us all again, as well as transitioning Heath McCoy to take over for Coral Cope. In her eight short months as the Program Manager, she became known for her hard work, kindness, and dedication. She will be missed for all of her wonderful contributions to the ELP.



Stephanie's Memorial Service was held September 1, 2006. It was attended by her family, friends, and numerous colleagues. Her passion for writing was highlighted throughout the service, along with her contagious smile and welcoming personality. Eve Princler, her manager, spoke on behalf of the HHS University. Three ELs from the CDC Class of 2007 also helped to honor Stephanie on behalf of the current and alumni ELP members. Janylle Gilyard and Chinyere Ekechi wrote the following letter to Stephanie's family, which I read at the memorial service:

*Dear Lott Family,*

*To capture Stephanie's smile and love for her position as our Program Manager is as hard as capturing a sunbeam in a jar. We, the current and the alumni members of the Emerging Leaders Program and those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are deeply saddened and share in your loss. As we grieve and rejoice in life's journey, we pause to admire and give thanks to Stephanie's spirit, for she took on the task of dealing with over a hundred strong, type-A personalities with grace, compassion, patience, and strength. These attributes are not usually found in one person, but Stephanie displayed them all.*

**(Article continues on Page 6)**

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## Class of 2008 ELP Orientations

~ Alison Keller, CDC '08 ~

### HHS ELP Orientation

On July 25, 2006, the Class of 2008 Emerging Leaders convened for the first time at the HHS ELP Orientation in Washington, DC. Rich McKeown, HHS Chief of Staff, initiated the orientation by welcoming the group and speaking about Secretary Mike Leavitt's 500 Day Plan and HHS' Department-wide objectives.

Linda Garvin, HHS Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Administration and Management, presented on the keys of career success. She gave advice on becoming the "go to" person, the significance of a first impression, and the need to get out of your comfort zone. She explained, "Seize the development opportunity...you must look and act the part before you can get the part." Federico Hudson (CDC '08) remarked, "Her speech was motivating and reassuring that there is a place and need for new ideas and new leaders."

During the Business Etiquette session, led by Fannie Allen of The Allen Etiquette Institute, ELs learned the importance of looking, speaking, and acting like a leader. The training included tips on how to dress, eat, shake hands, make introductions, present business cards, and write thank you notes. That evening, the Emerging Leaders put their networking skills to the test at an ELP Happy Hour at the 21st Amendment bar, coordinated by ELAB for current and past ELP classes.

The ELs also attended a Rotation Fair and informational sessions staffed by representatives of OS, ACF, AHRQ, AoA, CDC, CMS, FDA, HRSA, IHS, NIH, and SAMHSA. Julie Boccanera (ACF '08) thought that both were especially informative and provided the ELs with the opportunity to learn about the work of each Operating Division and interact with their representatives."

On the overall experience, Julie Boccanera found the orientation to be "a comprehensive introduction to the Emerging Leader Program." Paris Ponder (CDC '08) stated, "It was great having the opportunity to build networks with the entire 2008 ELP Class at the HHS orientation. I look forward to reuniting with everyone again to learn of their program experiences."

Chantelle Britton (NIH '08) reflected: "The orientation was particularly interesting to meet with some of the top officials at HHS. This is one aspect of the ELP that I truly enjoy—the ability to interact with some of the most influential leaders in the country."

### Agency-Specific ELP Orientations

In addition to the HHS ELP Orientation, several HHS agencies sponsored their own sessions to orient new ELs to their agency's programs, policies, and opportunities.

#### NIH ELP Orientation

NIH held an orientation for its ELs, PMFs, and other interns from August 7-11, 2006, at the main NIH campus in Bethesda, MD. The orientation included presentations by NIH management officials, as well as current and past interns. ELs were assigned interim mentors to help them begin networking. Potential collaboration projects between the intern programs; the history and evolution of NIH; the role of ELs in the NIH workforce; and training, travel policy, benefits, and tips for new employees on navigating the Agency were discussed. NIH also provided a fair to expose ELs to rotation opportunities. Michelle Esterlin (NIH '08) noted that, "The presentations achieved the stated goal of making us 'Fall in Love with NIH' by demonstrating the strong NIH community, as well as showing how scientists and administrators combine their efforts to further the mission of NIH."

#### CDC ELP Orientation

CDC held its ELP Orientation from August 1-3, 2006, in Atlanta, GA. During the orientation, CDC EL Coordinator Nairuby Beckles, a former EL herself (CDC '05) organized icebreakers, explained the leadership and governance bodies at CDC, and reviewed aspects of the program. Helpful panel and networking sessions enabled the ELs to interact with CDC leaders, current ELs, and ELP/PMF alumni. Paris Ponder (CDC '08) "particularly appreciated the built-in networking activities and the generosity of the current and former ELs and PMFs in sharing their personal experiences and time with us."

The ELs attended a meeting of the CDC Management Council, a panel of top CDC management officials, which gave them insight on how CDC makes important management decisions. Michon Mabry (CDC '08) remarked, "Listening to individuals on the Management Council was extremely informative and it provided me with an in-depth understanding of the agency."

*(Article continues on Page 3)*

### Interested in contributing to the ELPPost?!

*If you are interested in what's going on with Emerging Leaders past and present, we're looking for ELPPost writers, alumni who would like to be spotlighted, EL contributions to HHS, and your ideas for articles.*

*Please contact Rachel Banov at [rachel.banov@hhs.gov](mailto:rachel.banov@hhs.gov) or Justin Cormier at [jcormier@cdc.gov](mailto:jcormier@cdc.gov)*

## Class of 2006 Graduates!

~ Stefani Salazar Levesque, NIH '06 ~

Wednesday, August 9, 2006, marked the graduation of the third and largest class of HHS Emerging Leaders. Indeed the class is so large it had to be split in two for the class photo! The ceremony was held in the Great Hall of the Humphrey Building with several key

people in attendance, including Linda Garvin, Principal Deputy Secretary of Administration

and Management, who came to the ceremony to congratulate interns. Former ELP Program Managers Rita Kane, Liz Rowe, and Vicki Baldwin were also on hand to cheer on the new graduates.

Eve Princler, Branch Chief, Center for Career Management at HHS University, started the ceremony with a warm welcome and opening remarks, followed by Stephanie Lott, ELP Program Manager, who gave a brief history of the ELP as it wrapped up its fourth year of existence. The ceremony marked the last time that many ELs had the opportunity to spend time with Stephanie.

Emerging Leader Geanelle Griffith of CMS was selected to introduce the keynote speaker, Captain Penelope Royall, P.T., MSW, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

Captain Royall was a last minute replacement for CMS Administrator Mark B. McClellan, MD, PhD who was unable to make it back to town in time to speak at the ceremony. Despite the late notice, however, she delivered an eloquent address, commending the class for their efforts and accomplishments during their two-year tenure. She specifically remarked on all the hard work ELs dedicated to Katrina relief efforts. Captain Royall heads the Department's prevention initiatives, including *Healthy People 2010* among



*Gone in 60 seconds - The scrumptious cake*



*Sam, Meagan, Jasmin, Bridget, and Valerie can't believe it's all over.*



*One half of the class hamming it up for the class photo.*

others, and she encouraged the new graduates to always be mindful of their health. As we strive to become leaders within the Federal Government, she recommended: "be sure to care for yourselves as you would a loved one... be sure to die young at a very old age!"

The morning ended with a beautifully catered reception on the eighth floor where Stephanie Lott gave congratulatory remarks; the ELP Alumni Board (ELAB) encouraged alumni to become involved (for instance, by volunteering for the *ELPost* newsletter – hint hint!); and Eve Princler gave special recognition awards to Vicki Baldwin and Coral Cope, the latter of whom received a standing ovation for all of her hard work and consistency while working for the program.

## Class of 2008 ELP Orientations (Continued from Page 2)

A visit to the CDC's Emergency Operations Center provided a unique opportunity to view its state of the art communication technologies. Federico Hudson (CDC '08) found it "interesting to see how technology allows CDC to respond to domestic and international public health threats within a matter of seconds."

The ELs also participated in CDC Jeopardy with a Special Guest Host—CDC Chief Operating Officer, Bill Gimson. Jeopardy tested their knowledge acquired from presentations by CDC leaders throughout orientation. Michon Mabry said, "I thoroughly enjoyed CDC Jeopardy! It was a creative way to recap the information we learned about CDC. Overall, my experience at orientation reinforced my decision to become involved in public service."

## UPCOMING ELP TRAININGS

### Senior Class Training (Class of 2007)

February 13-15, 2007

May 8-10, 2007

June 28, 2007 (*Graduation*)

### Freshman Class Training (Class of 2008)

January 23-25, 2007

June 5-7, 2007

August - September 2007 (*Begin Group Projects*)

November 6-8, 2007

February 5-7, 2008 (*w/ Group Project Presentations on February 7 – White Paper due January 7*)

May 20-22, 2008

June 26, 2008 (*Graduation*)



## EL Alumni Spotlight

Jen Greaser,  
Class of 2005

### Q: What is your current position and OPDIV?

I am currently a program analyst with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Washington office, known as CDC/Washington (<http://www.cdc.gov/washington>). CDC/Washington is responsible for legislative strategy and Congressional relations for CDC, as well as liaison activities with HHS and Washington area partners. We also serve as a base of operations for the CDC director when she travels to DC. As the only HHS agency headquartered outside of Washington, it is especially important that our office maintain a strong presence here.



### Q: Where are you from originally?

I am originally from Baltimore County, MD, near the Pennsylvania border. I currently live in Columbia, MD, about 40 minutes outside DC [the “burbs”].

### Q: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Between work, our new house, and my 2-year old daughter Caroline, there isn’t much free time to speak of! I love playing with Caroline and spending time with my husband Karl. I enjoy exercising outside (bike riding, walks, hikes, etc.). During the summer, we enjoy going to the beach and relaxing. We’re not winter people and we hate snow for extended periods, so we normally shut ourselves up inside for most of the winter!

### Q: What is your academic and professional background?

When I left high school, I thought I would become a physical therapist, and I attended the University of Maryland (UM)-Baltimore County with that goal in mind. My first major was pre-physical therapy. I briefly studied biology as well, but discovered that I didn’t want to go to medical school or work in a lab, so I finally graduated with a degree in Psychology. I then attended nursing school, and received a BSN degree in 2000 from UM-Baltimore. I became a Registered Nurse, and began work at a physical rehabilitation hospital as a staff nurse. While working, I also attended UM-Baltimore for my Master of Science in nursing and worked towards a certificate in health policy. In my last semester in graduate school, I applied to the Emerging Leaders Program. I began the program in July 2003 in CMS’ Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, Coverage and Analysis Group.

### Q: What led you to the EL Program?

Working with patients as a nurse is rewarding one patient at a time. But I was interested in working in health policy to potentially have an effect on a greater number of people. For my health policy practicum in graduate school, I did an internship with the Division of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at CMS in Baltimore. I worked on a health promotion demonstration project relating to obesity and physical activity. I had a great experience working there, and when I found out about ELP through my graduate program, I applied.

### Q: What was your best experience as an EL?

I’ve had a number of great experiences, so it’s hard to pick just one! I did rotations at AoA, AHRQ, and CDC. At AoA, I worked on health promotion grants for older adults, and at AHRQ, I developed educational materials on childhood obesity for medical professionals. Then, I completed a rotation with CDC/Washington in April 2004, where I got involved with congressional work by backing up the legislative account managers and writing legislative reports. After returning from maternity leave, I transitioned to managing the legislative accounts for CDC’s Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Center, as well as the Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Center.

While I enjoyed all my experiences, I would say the best was my work on a continuing medical education DVD on childhood obesity, partnering with Discovery Health. When we taped the Surgeon General giving an introductory message for the DVD, I got a chance to speak with him and hear about his background and priorities. It was a unique opportunity to have exposure to a high-level HHS leader; he was very friendly and down-to-earth.

### Q: What advice would you give to current ELs?

Balance out your rotations and experiences so you gain knowledge and skills to help you in your home office position, as well as broader exposure to what you’ll need down the road in your career. Make sure you do something fun and outside your normal comfort zone for your own personal development.

### Q: If you had to go back and do one thing over in the EL Program, what would it be?

Definitely to go more outside my comfort zone, and do a rotation that’s outside the boundaries of the skills I thought I would need. Because I currently work with legislation, I would have benefited from doing a rotation in a budget office even though I don’t focus in that area. You never know where life will take you, and how that experience will help you later on.

*(Article continues on Page 5)*

## Highlighting the Work of ELs

~ Jessica Camacho-Rodriguez, CDC '08 ~

CDC's Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (COTPER) helps the nation prepare for and respond to urgent threats to the public's health. These threats include terrorism acts and/or emergencies from natural, biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events.

I am a new Emerging Leader in the Class of 2008 at the CDC, and my home office is the Division of Business Services (DBS) within COTPER. DBS supports COTPER by providing resource management, planning, organizational, and day-to-day operational services to

COTPER's divisions: Office of the Director, Division of State and Local Readiness, Division of Strategic National Stockpile, Division of Emergency Operations, and Division of Select Agents and Toxins. A team of DBS staff is located within every COTPER division.



I am in the ELP Administrative Track, and work on the Evaluation Team within DBS, affectionately referred to as the E-Team, which functions as the analytical arm for DBS. The E-Team is relatively new, and is therefore a great opportunity for me to learn evaluation concepts from the ground up. The areas I work in include the Balanced Scorecard and the DBS Customer Service Survey.

COTPER utilizes the Balanced Scorecard as a strategy tool to translate the organization's mission into a set of performance indicators, distributed among four perspectives: Financial, Customer, Internal Business Processes, and Learning and Growth. I assisted the E-Team with collecting and analyzing performance data for the Balanced Scorecard, which allowed me to utilize many of the analytical skills I learned in my MPA program.

COTPER recently hosted several training sessions for CDC senior management, which I was able to attend. Paul Niven, author of the book, "Balanced Scorecard Step-by-Step for Government and Nonprofit Agencies," provided training on understanding our role in collecting and maintaining Balanced Scorecard data. After the training, I was fortunate enough to meet the author and get my book signed.

I also recently worked with my supervisor to create a web-based DBS Customer Satisfaction survey. The purpose of the survey was to examine the overall performance and employee attitudes about DBS. The survey was sent to all COTPER employees and received a sufficient response rate. The E-Team is currently analyzing the results from the survey.

My other responsibilities include attending DBS Senior Team Lead weekly meetings; learning COTPER and DBS Key Performance Indicators; working on budgetary issues and a diversity initiative; and assisting with development of the CDC ELP webpage. I have started working with the DBS Director on the Business Improvement Work Group. I will soon begin my internal rotations and will be working on each DBS team in all COTPER divisions. In addition, I have participated in the COTPER New Employee Orientation, COTPER Fest, All Hands Meeting, and Round Table discussions, and am also looking forward to the DBS Retreat in November 2006.

I enjoy being a part of the COTPER/DBS team. I am constantly being exposed to new information and innovative business concepts, and I look forward to continually learning and growing in the position throughout my time in the ELP.

## EL Alumni Spotlight: Jen Greaser (Continued from Page 4)

### Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

On the sidelines of my daughter's soccer game, in the suburbs, in my SUV☺ Of course, I can also see myself preaching to the PTA about changing the school menus to provide healthier food options. Professionally, I think I'd like to work for a partner organization at some point in my career, continuing to focus on disease prevention and health promotion. Hopefully, this area will continue to take off, especially in worksite wellness and childhood obesity prevention, and I see myself continuing to work in these areas – whether within or outside of government.

## JOIN AN ELAB COMMITTEE!

- 1) **EL Exchange:** This committee hosts social and professional networking and/or learning sessions as a venue where information is shared by experts and fellow EL Alumni. The committee is looking for people who are creative, fun, and enjoy the rush that comes with making things happen!  
**Committee Lead:** April Forsythe (CMS), [April.Forsythe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:April.Forsythe@cms.hhs.gov)
- 2) **Constituent Services:** This committee addresses a variety of special projects that will provide tangible products to alumni, such as a directory of alumni.  
**Committee Lead:** Tia L. Zeno (HRSA), [tzeno@hrsa.gov](mailto:tzeno@hrsa.gov)
- 3) **New ELP Website:** The ELAB is working with the ELP to create a website which will feature ELAB activities, information, and resources.  
**Committee Leads:** Shanaz Mobley [Shanaz.Mobley@hhs.gov](mailto:Shanaz.Mobley@hhs.gov) and Kristen Finne [kristen.finne@hhs.gov](mailto:kristen.finne@hhs.gov)

## Welcome to Heath McCoy: New ELP Program Manager

~ Jeremy Marshall, IHS '07 ~

HHS University recently selected Heath McCoy to assist with the coordination of the Emerging Leaders Program. Heath holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Counseling Psychology from Columbia Union College.



Heath's past experience working with the SES Candidate Development Program helped him to discover various ways to communicate effectively with a diverse background of individuals. Additionally, he has provided courses in marketing, customer service, facility coordination, and reporting at HHS University.

Heath was born in Baltimore City and witnessed, first hand, the effects of psychosocial stresses. He later relocated to southern California during his middle school years. Looking back on his life, Heath realized that he excelled at academics and sports because of the positive role models in his life that helped him to avoid some of the obstacles of which many of his family members and friends became victims.

Outside of the office, Heath enjoys spending quality time with his two sons, Heath and Brandon. Heath played basketball in college and one year professionally; he continues to play organized basketball in his spare time today. He also serves as a mentor to seven at-risk youth in Baltimore City on a daily basis; he mentors to show youth that if he was able to overcome some obstacles, then they can do the same. Heath states, "It is imperative in the African American community, or any community where poverty is apparent, whoever escapes must give back in one capacity to improve the quality of life for those they are serving."

When asked which topical areas of HHS work interest Heath the most, he responded, "Being a born activist, I constantly follow ACF (Key Priorities) and CDC as the two agencies that are positively impacting African American communities." Heath's favorite part of his job is "participating and observing the multiple levels of various leadership styles and approaches." He is committed to continuing efforts to improve effective communication in the ELP by involving all stakeholders so all parties share the same mission and goals for the ELP.

## Tribute to Stephanie Lott (Continued from Page 1)

*It is hard to capture every one of our memories and feelings but we would like for you, her family, to know that Stephanie's passing has created a void in our hearts and especially in our program. Many of us will remember the piercing, teacher-like stare she would send our way when we walked into our training sessions late, or asked a question which she had previously answered. Without missing a beat, Stephanie would always respond with ease, as if our incessant questions did not bother her in the least. She would patiently respond to all of our e-mails and phone calls, even knowing that when she responded, it would only generate more questions and more phone calls.*

*When those of us who were traveling back to Atlanta would arrive at training with our endless bags of luggage in tow, Stephanie would just laugh. Then she would gently point us towards the back of the room, where we should stow our belongings until we were dismissed for the day. (Certainly, she must have secretly wondered why some of us traveled with 2 or 3 pieces of luggage for a mere 4 day trip!)*

*We all have heard the phrase, "to teach is to touch a life." Stephanie has taught each one of us something and has touched us all in a very special way. Stephanie took on the task of managing our program with a firm sense of what was truly important. She found subtle ways of showing us that every voice had value and every idea had merit, even when disagreements seemed to be the order of the day. She taught us that calmness can be reassuring, and priorities should be inspiring.*

*It is with heavy hearts that we are giving these flowers in memory of Stephanie, but it is our hope that in some small way we each gave her flowers of praise and admiration while she walked in our presence.*

*In memory of Stephanie's spirit and dedication to faith, family, and friends, we would like to present donations to the National Arthritis Foundation and the Children's Defense Fund. These donations will be presented so that others may benefit and know how much Stephanie was, and will always be, appreciated. If our donation can help one person as she has helped the classes of 2006, 2007, 2008, and the alumni members of the Emerging Leaders Program, we believe that she would smile and say, "Well Done!"*

*From the Emerging Leaders past and present, we celebrate Stephanie V. Lott: her accomplishments, her diligence, and her patience with us all. We say to you, her family, that Stephanie made a difference in our lives and that you are in our thoughts and prayers during this time of sorrow.*



**Legislative Update: HHS Appropriations Bill**

~ Co-editors Rachel Banov and Justin Cormier ~

Happy New Fiscal Year! Congress recently adjourned for the election recess, but did not determine the HHS appropriations level for the new fiscal year beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. It is not a rare occurrence for the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill to be delayed. Last year, the FY 2006 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill was not signed into law by the President until December 30, 2005. According to *Congressional Quarterly*, the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill is “perceived as one of the more contentious spending bills each year.”

This year, enactment is difficult due to conflicts between the House, Senate, and President’s request regarding the amount of recommended allocations, which programs should receive priority, and a House provision that would increase the minimum wage. When Congress comes back from recess after the November elections, they will have to address this appropriations bill.

The House version of the bill (HR 5647) would appropriate \$605 billion in spending for fiscal 2007 (\$454.6 billion in mandatory programs and \$141.9 billion in discretionary programs). The amount allocated for discretionary spending would represent an increase of less than 1 percent over the amount enacted in FY 2006, and 3 percent more than the President requested. HHS would receive \$477.5 billion, which is less than the \$478.3 billion level enacted in 2006, but \$1.8 billion more the President’s request. HR 5647 was reported out of the House Appropriations Committee on June 13<sup>th</sup>, and remains the last appropriations measure awaiting passage by the full House.

When the House measure stalled, the Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee created and approved its own companion measure (S 3708), which would provide a total of \$605.6 billion in fiscal 2007. This includes \$142.8 billion in discretionary funding, which is about \$1.3 billion more than the fiscal 2006 spending level and \$5 billion more than President Bush requested. The Senate measure was reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 20<sup>th</sup>, and is awaiting floor consideration.

To provide stop-gap funding until the appropriations bill is made law, Congress issued a Continuing Resolution (CR)\* on September 29<sup>th</sup>, providing temporary funding through November 17<sup>th</sup> for HHS. This year, the CR was attached as a provision in the Department of Defense Appropriations bill, which was signed into law by the President soon after both chambers of Congress voted to approve it.

*What does this mean for us?* Many HHS programs and offices will be under somewhat constricted spending rules while operating under the CR, and funding for new initiatives may be restricted. Specific questions should be referred to your Agency’s budget office. But rest assured, we still have our jobs, and will be paid as usual until the final appropriations are passed!

\* A CR is a joint resolution enacted by Congress and signed by the president, when the new fiscal year is about to begin or has begun, to provide new budget authority for federal agencies and programs to continue in operation until the regular appropriations acts are enacted.

Source: *Congressional Quarterly* bill analysis

*Congratulations to the Class of 2007 on completing your Group Project White Papers ... and good luck on your presentations!*

**Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, October 31, 2006,  
5:30-9 pm** – *ELP Halloween Happy Hour* following the Class of 2007 Training. Costumes are welcome! Regional Food & Drink (R.D.F.) 810 7th Street, NW (Gallery Place/Chinatown metro)

**Wednesday, November 8, 6-8 pm** – *DC Society for Young Professionals in Health Policy Happy Hour* at the Front Page (Dupont Circle metro). Email: [dchealthpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:dchealthpolicy@gmail.com)

**Other Announcements**

***Donations in Honor of Stephanie Lott:*** A special thank you goes to all of the CDC current and alumni Emerging Leaders who contributed to the National Arthritis Foundation and the Children’s Defense Fund in memory of Stephanie. We were able to donate \$150 to each organization.

Thank you to all of the other ELs who also individually donated to these organizations in memory of Stephanie.

If you would like to make a donation to a charity suggested by the Lotts, go to: <http://www.arthritis.org/> or <http://www.childrensdefense.org/>. When asked for the required “Recipient Information,” enter: Jean and Bobbie Lott (Stephanie’s parents), 6403 Hawthorne Street, Landover, MD 20785.

***New [youngfeds.org](http://www.youngfeds.org) website:*** The Council for Excellence in Government created a website, which just launched October 23, via a grant from Geico. The website is especially for federal employees that are under the age of 35. The Council is a national, nonprofit and nonpartisan organization whose mission is to improve the performance of government (<http://www.excel.gov/>).